

DAIRY MODERNIZATION

PRO-DAIRY

By Julie Berry

This month's
The Manager
from PRO-DAIRY
focuses on dairy
modernization

Technology and modernization

This month's The Manager overviews research and features farm profiles of modernization. One theme of this spring's NEDPA conference, which is coordinated by PRO-DAIRY and presented by the Northeast Dairy Producer's Association, was adapting to change. The farmers profiled in this issue have embraced change. In this generation change includes technology. And with technology comes data that when used appropriately can lead to better management. The bottom line is healthy cows and healthy profit that will enable today's farm families to thrive.

This issue includes an article with five tips for mobile apps that can help with efficiency and data management by Dino Giacomazzi, a fourth generation farmer in California. PRO-DAIRY's Sam Steinberg reviewed robotic milking barn design and the owners of Blesy Farm, LLC and Tayl-Wind Farm, LLC provided first-hand accounts of their experiences with robotic milkers and how they manage the data provided by them. New technologies can also include automated feed pushers and manure scrapers and PRO-DAIRY's Kathy Barrett overviewed their use on NY farms. She also profiled Weaver Dairy's new facility, which has a robotic milking

system, LED lighting, GEA single beam stalls and manure tubes. Part of the Weaver's success in their design came from talking to other farmers. Dairy Profit Discussion Groups and Dairy Profit Teams can provide perspective to make sound decisions during modernization projects. Barrett also interviewed Cornell's Julio Giordano, who is researching use of activity monitors for heat detection and rumination monitors to identify cows with health disorders. Beth Dahl, a former modernization specialist, profiled precision feeding at Lawnel Farms. And, PRO-DAIRY's Curt Gooch and Karl Czymmek, along with Nellie Brown, CIH, Director of the Workplace Health and Safety Program of the Worker Institute at Cornell University-ILR, discuss safety when working in confined spaces in "Respiratory protection during potential hydrogen sulfide gas exposure."

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The Manager, a special section prepared by PRO-DAIRY specialists appears in *DairyBusiness East* four times a year. In keeping with the PRO-DAIRY mission, The Manager helps strengthen the management skills of dairy producers and increase the profitability of the dairy industry. PRO-DAIRY, an educational program begun in 1988, is a joint venture of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Northeast agriservice organizations. For reprints of PRO-DAIRY's The Manager, contact Heather Darrow, 272 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Phone: 607. 255.4478 Email: hh96@cornell.edu